

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

STEVE UPPERMAN,)	
)	CASE NO. 2:17-CV-00348
Plaintiff,)	
)	JUDGE GEORGE C. SMITH
v.)	
)	MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOLSON
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO., et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	<u>STIPULATED CONFIDENTIALITY</u>
)	<u>AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER</u>
)	

Pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by the parties, Plaintiff Steve Upperman (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants Southwest Airlines Co. (“Southwest Airlines”), Tim Cavanagh, and Jeff Slicer (collectively “Defendants”),¹ by and through their respective counsel, that:

(A) (i) This Stipulation and Order governs the handling of all documents (whether in written, taped, or electronic form), testimony and other information, including all copies, excerpts, and summaries thereof (collectively, “material”), produced, given or filed during discovery and other proceedings in this action.

(ii) The provisions of this Stipulation and Order shall apply to (1) the parties in this action, and (2) any other person producing or disclosing material in this action who agrees to be bound by the terms of this Stipulation and Order. As used herein, “person” includes the named parties to the above-captioned case and others who have agreed to be bound by this Stipulation and Order.

¹ By stipulating to this Confidentiality Agreement and Protective Order, Defendants do not waive their argument that Plaintiff’s Complaint should be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Further, Defendant Slicer does not waive his defenses as to failure of service of process upon him.

(B) Any person may designate as “Confidential” any material produced in the course of this litigation (including appeals) when such person (in the case of a corporate party, through a representative of the corporate party, which can include its in-house counsel and outside counsel) in good faith believes such material contains: (1) non-public information relating to Southwest Airlines including, but not limited to, personnel and operational policies, financial performance, and other documents containing confidential and/or proprietary commercial, financial, and/or business information; (2) information regarding current and/or former employees of Southwest Airlines including, but not necessarily limited to, personnel-related records and compensation information; and/or (3) medical records (hereinafter “Confidential Material”).²

(C) Confidential Material shall be subject to the following restrictions:

(i) Confidential Material shall be used only for the purpose of this litigation (including appeals) and for no other purpose (unless authorized by this Court) and may only be disclosed, given, shown, made available or communicated, directly or indirectly, to the persons listed in Paragraph (C)(ii) below.

(ii) Confidential Material may be disclosed only to:

- (1) the parties to this action and/or employees of the parties who need access to Confidential Material for a purpose articulated in Paragraph (i) above;
- (2) counsel of record in this case for the parties and employees of such counsel;
- (3) the Court (including court reporters, stenographic reporters and court personnel) and jury;

² The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) prohibits disclosure of certain HIPAA-protected information.

- (4) experts and consultants retained by the parties or counsel in this action;
- (5) any government agency seeking access to the information in order to fulfill its jurisdictional responsibilities; and
- (6) any other person as to whom the producing person agrees in writing in advance of such disclosure.

(iii) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, this Stipulation and Order has no effect upon, and its scope shall not extend to, any party's use of its own Confidential Material.

(D) Each person given access to Confidential Material pursuant to the terms hereof (other than persons described in Paragraphs (C)(ii)(2)-(3) and (5) above) shall be advised that the Confidential Material is being disclosed in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation and Order and may be disclosed only in accordance with the terms hereof; and that the violation of the terms of this Stipulation and Order may constitute contempt of a court order. Before any person (other than persons described in Paragraphs (C)(ii)(2)-(3) and (5) above) is given access to Confidential Material, he or she must first execute an Acknowledgement of Receipt of this Confidentiality Agreement and Protective Order in the form attached hereto, agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation and Order. In the event a dispute arises, Acknowledgements of Receipt will be produced upon written request.

(E) Confidential Material shall be designated as follows:

(i) In the case of documents, the designation shall be made by placing the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" on each page of any such document prior to the production.

(ii) In the case of discovery responses, the designation shall be made by stating in response to the discovery request that the information contained in the response is “CONFIDENTIAL” and subject to protective order.

(iii) In the case of deposition transcripts, a designation can be made by any party by indicating on the record at the deposition that the testimony is “CONFIDENTIAL” and subject to protective order or by providing notice in writing to the other party (no later than 15 business days after receipt of the deposition transcript) that all or any portion of the deposition transcript be designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” under the terms of the Stipulation and Order. All copies of deposition transcripts that contain Confidential Material shall be prominently marked “CONFIDENTIAL” on the cover thereof.

(F) If a party wishes to file with the Court any information or documents that the other party has designated as “CONFIDENTIAL,” such information or documents shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 5.2.1(a) “Filing Under Seal.” This Paragraph shall not apply to the use of any confidential materials at trial, although either party may seek a further order of this Court with regard to such issues if appropriate.

(G) No party concedes that any material designated by any other person as Confidential Material does in fact contain or reflect proprietary or confidential information, or has been properly designated as Confidential Material. Any party may, upon ten (10) business days’ advance written notice to the other party, move this Court for (1) modification of this Stipulation and Order, or (2) relief from the provisions of this Stipulation and Order. In addition, the parties may agree in writing or on a transcribed record to necessary modifications of this Stipulation and Order.

(i) A party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of the designation of material as Confidential Material, at the time made, and failure to do so shall not preclude a subsequent challenge thereof. If a party challenges such designation, it shall provide written notice of such challenge to the designating person, and the parties shall attempt to resolve any challenge in good faith on an expedited and informal basis. If the challenge cannot be expeditiously and informally resolved, either the designating person or the challenging party may, on ten (10) business days' advance written notice to the other party, apply for an appropriate ruling(s) from the Court. The material in issue shall continue to be treated as designated until the Court orders otherwise.

(ii) Inadvertent or unintentional production of documents or information containing information which should have been designated as Confidential Material shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claims of confidentiality.

(H) This Stipulation and Order, insofar as it restricts the communication and use of Confidential Material, shall continue to be binding throughout and after the conclusion of this litigation, including any appeals. Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of this litigation (including appeals), every party and person subject to the terms of this Stipulation and Order shall collect and either return to the producing party or person all Confidential Material obtained from the producing party or person, and all copies of such Confidential Material, or destroy the Confidential Material. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall be no obligation to return any Confidential Material that became a part of the Court's record in this action (by use as a trial exhibit, inclusion in a court filing, inclusion in the record on any appeal, or otherwise).

(I) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Stipulation and Order, the obligations of secrecy, confidentiality, non-disclosure, and non-use on the part of either party shall not apply to information that:

(i) is already in the unrestricted and rightful possession of the non-designating party or in the public domain at the time of receipt;

(ii) becomes public knowledge after receipt through no fault of the non-designating party, the non-designating party's counsel, or any expert or consultant retained by the non-designating party; or

(iii) is transmitted to the non-designating party by a third party having no obligation to the designating party.

(J) This Court shall retain jurisdiction over the parties and those persons subject to this Stipulation and Order for purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Stipulation and Order; and all parties consent to the personal jurisdiction of this Court for such purposes.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: August 15, 2017

/s/ Kimberly A. Jolson
Kimberly A. Jolson
United States Magistrate Judge

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Fred M. Bean (per email consent)
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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF
CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

I acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the Stipulated Confidentiality Agreement and Protective Order in the matter of *Steve Upperman v. Southwest Airlines Co., et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, Case No. 2:17-CV-00348, and agree to be bound by its provisions.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____